

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-51 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4, 5, 15-17, 21, 25, 39, 44, and 47 have been amended.

The status of the application in light of the Office Action dated August 10, 2005, is as follows:

(A) Claims 1, 2, 9-12, 14, 15, 18-21, 25, 27, 34, 36-39, 41, 42, 44, 45, 50, and 51 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by US Pat. No. 6,409,576 to Oguri et al. ("Oguri").

(B) Claims 3, 13, 28, 35, and 46 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being anticipated by Oguri in view of US Pat No. 5,367,257 to Garshelis ("Garshelis").

(C) Claims 4-8, 16, 17, 23, 24, 26, 31-33, and 47-49 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being anticipated by Oguri in view of Garshelis, and further in view of US Pat. No. 6,538,433 to Cervantes et al. ("Cervantes").

(D) Claims 22 and 40 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being anticipated by Oguri in view of US Pat No. 6,678,911 to Krupa et al. ("Krupa").

(E) Claims 29, 30, and 43 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The undersigned attorney wishes to thank the Examiner for participating in a telephone interview on September 29, 2005. During that interview, the parties discussed the Oguri reference and the Garshelis reference. The parties agreed that the proposed change to the language in independent claims 1, 15, 21, 25, 39, and 44 appears to overcome the art in the applied references. Additionally, the parties agreed that the specification of the application at least inherently supports the proposed change to the language discussed above.

The agreed-to clarifying language has been incorporated into these claims. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 15, 21, 25, 39, and 44 are in condition for allowance. Claims 2-14, 16-20, 22-24, 26-38, 40-43, and 45-51, which depend from

these claims, are also in condition for allowance, for the reasons discussed above and for the features of these dependent claims. Accordingly, all of the claims now pending in the application (claims 1-51) are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, the pending claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are patentable over the cited art. The applicant accordingly requests reconsideration of the application and a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call Tim Seeley at (206) 359-6477.

Respectfully submitted,  
Perkins Coie LLP

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Tim R. Seeley  
Tim R. Seeley  
Registration No. 53,575

**Correspondence Address:**

Customer No. 25096  
Perkins Coie LLP  
P.O. Box 1247  
Seattle, Washington 98111-1247  
(206) 359-8000